

OK TO ENTER  
/h  
10/30/05

10/518913  
DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 23 DEC 2004

## BUMPER-SUPPORTING STRUCTURE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

### BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to a supporting structure for a motor vehicle, in particular for an automobile.

[0002] A supporting structure of the aforementioned type is disclosed, for example, by European publication EP 0 434 240 B1 and has a longitudinal beam arrangement with two horizontally spaced longitudinal beams running parallel to one another in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, the longitudinal beams in the known supporting structure being arranged relatively far outwards, that is to say along the outside of the vehicle. A bumper arrangement, which from the outside inwards has a bumper cladding, a bending beam and a crossbeam, is fitted to a front or rear longitudinal end of the longitudinal beam arrangement. The bending beam is curved convexly outwards or curved concavely in relation to the crossbeam. The bending beam is attached to the lateral ends of the crossbeam. The crossbeam is in turn attached by its lateral ends to axial ends of the two longitudinal beams of the longitudinal beam arrangement. Energy-absorbing foam bodies may be arranged between the bumper cladding and the bending beam, in the area of the lateral ends of the bending beam.